NATIONAL HIGHWAY SYSTEM/Highway Demonstration Project Ban

SUBJECT: National Highway System Designation Act of 1995 . . . S. 440. McCain amendment No. 1438.

ACTION: AMENDMENT AGREED TO, 85-21

SYNOPSIS: As reported, S. 440, the National Highway System Designation Act of 1995, will designate the National Highway System in accordance with the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA). Failure to enact the bill by September 30, 1995, will result in all States losing their National Highway System and Interstate Maintenance funding.

The McCain amendment would bar the use of Federal funds to pay for highway demonstration projects that have not been authorized and for which no funds have been made available as of the date of enactment of this Act.

Those favoring the amendment contended:

The McCain amendment would forbid the wasteful practice of earmarking scarce transportation funds for unauthorized highway projects in particular States. Such earmarking results in less funds to distribute to the States under the merit-based formulas. Over the past 2 years, according to the Department of Transportation, 17 States have had their highway funding increased as a result of earmarks, while 33 States have lost funding. Perhaps coincidentally, States that have received greater funding have tended to be represented by powerful Members of Congress. We are not saying that all earmarked projects are necessarily without merit; instead, we are saying that if they do have merit they can compete fairly for their fair share of their State's allocation from the Federal highway funding formula. They should not be funded by stealing out of the pot that is divided up among all the States. The McCain amendment is modest; it would not cancel any earmarked projects that are currently underway. Instead, it would only ban future earmarks. We urge our colleagues to join us in voting in favor of the McCain amendment.

No arguments were expressed in opposition to the amendment.

(See other side)

YEAS (75)				NAYS (21)		NOT VOTING (4)	
Republican (45 or 87%)		Democrats (30 or 68%)		Republicans (7 or 13%)	Democrats (14 or 32%)	Republicans	Democrats (2)
						(2)	
Ashcroft Brown Burns Campbell Chafee Cochran Cohen Coverdell Craig D'Amato DeWine Dole Domenici Faircloth Frist Gorton Gramm Grams Grassley Gregg Hatch Helms	Hutchison Inhofe Kassebaum Kempthorne Kyl Lott Lugar Mack McCain McConnell Murkowski Nickles Packwood Pressler Roth Simpson Smith Snowe Stevens Thomas Thompson Thurmond Warner	Baucus Biden Bingaman Bradley Byrd Conrad Daschle Dodd Dorgan Exon Feingold Ford Glenn Graham Hollings	Kennedy Kerrey Kerry Kohl Leahy Lieberman Moseley-Braun Moynihan Nunn Pell Pryor Robb Rockefeller Simon Wellstone	Abraham Bennett Bond Hatfield Jeffords Santorum Specter	Akaka Boxer Breaux Bryan Bumpers Feinstein Harkin Heflin Johnston Lautenberg Levin Mikulski Reid Sarbanes	EXPLANAT 1—Official I 2—Necessar 3—Illness 4—Other SYMBOLS: AY—Annou AN—Annou PY—Paired PN—Paired	ily Absent inced Yea inced Nay Yea